

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site, the apparatus comprising:

a body having a channel;

a string passing through the channel, the string being associated with at least two of the medical appliances from the ~~plurality of sequentially ordered~~ positioned deployable medical appliances; and

a mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance to deploy a first of the medical appliances and for moving the string a predetermined second distance to deploy a second of the medical appliances.

Claims 2-24. (Canceled) Without prejudice.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance comprises at least one plunger slidably mounted in the body so that the length of the channel through which the string passes is alterable.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance comprises an external handle slidably coupled to the outside surface of the body and further comprising a stop along the surface of the body, the stop adapted to retard the longitudinal movement of the handle along the body.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance has a projection adapted to couple the apparatus to an endoscope.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance contains a plurality of plungers that are moveable so that the length of the channel through which the string passes is alterable.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance contains an anchoring point for the string.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance is trumpet-valve shaped.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance comprises:

a shaft having an outside surface;

an external handle slidable along the shaft, the external handle coupled to the string;

a first stop positioned along the outside surface of the shaft; and

a second stop positioned along the outside surface of the shaft wherein at least one of the stops is adapted to retard the movement of the external handle along the shaft.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein at least one of the stops is integrally formed with the shaft.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the stop is compressible.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the appliances is a ligating band.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the body having a channel and the mechanism the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance are integrally formed as a unit.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance include a sliding component that contacts the string.